

## Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

### EPT for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in Maryland

What Is EPT?	Who Can Provide EPT in Maryland?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the practice of providing antibiotic therapy to the sex partners of persons diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) without an intervening medical evaluation.</li> <li>EPT is not intended to replace traditional partner notification and management. It can be a valuable option, though, for reaching partners who are unlikely or unable to seek medical care. The gold standard for partner management is still direct clinical assessment and treatment.</li> <li>In Maryland, EPT can be provided through the direct provision of medications or by prescribing antibiotic therapy for chlamydia or gonorrhea. EPT is not a mandatory practice.</li> </ul>	<p>The following health care providers in both public and private health care settings may prescribe or dispense EPT to the sexual partner(s) of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A physician licensed under Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article;</li> <li>An advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority licensed under Title 8 of the Health Occupations Article acting in accordance with § 8-508 of the Health Occupations Article;</li> <li>An authorized physician assistant licensed under Title 15 of the Health Occupations Article acting in accordance with § 15-302.2 of the Health Occupations Article;</li> <li>A registered nurse employed by a local health department who complies with: (i) The formulary developed and approved under § 3-403(b) of this article; and (ii) The requirements established under § 8-512 of the Health Occupations Article.</li> </ul>

### EPT Treatment Regimens for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

Chlamydia	Uncomplicated Gonococcal Infections of Cervix, Urethra, & Rectum (Regardless of Chlamydia)
<b>Azithromycin 1 g orally once</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Cefixime 400 mg orally once</b>  <b>PLUS</b>  <b>Azithromycin 1 gram orally once</b> </p> <p><i>Note: standard (non-EPT) treatment regimen for Gonorrhea:</i>            Ceftriaxone 250 mg as a single IM dose            PLUS            Azithromycin 1 g orally once</p> <p><i>*Doxycycline moved to alternative regimen</i></p>

#### **Provider Reporting: Changes to Maryland Confidential Morbidity Report Form – EPT information required!**

Changes include, among other things, space to report provision of partner treatment. Revised form, a fillable pdf, is available here: <http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/what-to-report.aspx>.

**\* Statute Effective Date:** June 1, 2015. **Regulations Effective Date:** March 28, 2016. The Maryland DHMH is developing clinical guidance and educational materials that will be posted here on the Maryland DHMH Center for STI Prevention Web site as they become available: <http://tiny.cc/tfx59x>.